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REPORT

ON THE STATE OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

IN THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF BUSHEY

URBAN DISTRICT OF CHORLEYWOOD

URBAN DISTRICT OF RICKMANSWORTH

RURAL DISTRICT OF WATFORD

IN THE COUNTY OF

HERTFORD



WILLIAM HARVEY, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1956

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of :

*the Urban District Council of Bushey,
the Urban District Council of Chorleywood,
the Urban District Council of Rickmansworth,
and
the Rural District Council of Watford.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health, and, the Reports by the Inspectors on the Sanitary conditions, in the Districts, during the year 1956.

The general health was very good; and, the incidence of the infectious diseases was exceptionally low. The repair and maintenance of houses have received priority, and steps have been taken to replace those houses which could not be brought up to a reasonable standard. The Council's sanitary services are working efficiently, and they have been increased where necessary to meet the growing needs of the Districts.

CHANGES IN THE POPULATION

The statistical data in the reports are based on the Registrar General's estimates of the mid-year populations of the Districts ; these are analysed and compared with those for the previous year.

The increase of 1,830 in the population of the Watford Rural District, though still considerable, was appreciably less than in recent years when the large estates were in full development. In the nine years, from the middle of 1947 to the middle of 1956, the Rural District population increased at an average yearly rate of 3,452, from 21,860 to 52,930—a total increase of 31,070 persons. Over the same period the populations of Bushey, Chorleywood, and Rickmansworth increased by 3,950, 1,612, and 2,950 ; respectively. There were no appreciable changes in the boundaries.

A table giving the mid-year populations of the Districts in 1955 and 1956 ; and, the changes due to natural increases, or the excesses of births over deaths ; and, the balances from inward and outward migratory movements.

POPULATION			DISTRICT	CHANGES	
1955	Changes cols. e + f	1956		Natural	Migration
17,940	320	18,260	BUSHEY	109	211
5,430	390	5,820	CHORLEYWOOD	34	356
26,180	460	26,640	RICKMANSWORTH	147	313
51,100	1,830	52,930	WATFORD RURAL	421	1,409
100,650	3,000	103,650	AREA	711	2,289
a	b	c	d	e	f

All changes are increases unless prefixed by a minus sign.

THE BIRTH RATE. INFANTILE MORTALITY

The birth rates for 1956, and for some previous years, are given in the reports. With the increasing population the number of births reaches a higher level each year, although there have also been appreciable increases in the actual rates for the last two years. There were 1,591 live births last year, compared with 1,444 in 1955, and, with 834 in 1938.

The birth rate for England and Wales in 1956 was 15.7 per 1,000 of the home population—an increase of 0.7.

A table showing the Live, and Still, Births in the Districts during 1956, corrected for inward, and outward, transfers.

Still Births		Live Births		
		M.	F.	Totals
2	BUSHEY	140	130	270
1	CHORLEYWOOD	38	54	92
11	RICKMANSWORTH	191	164	355
12	WATFORD RURAL	450	424	874
—	—	—	—	—
26	AREA	819	772	1,591

Infantile Mortality in England and Wales last year was the lowest ever recorded—the rate of 23.8 per 1,000 related live births being 1.1 below that for 1955, the previous lowest. Ten years ago the rate was 43. The low rate of 3.7 in Bushey, last year, represented the death of one infant amongst the 270 live births. About three-fifths of the infant deaths in the Districts occurred during the neonatal period of four weeks after birth, when such causes as prematurity, malformations, pneumonia, and injuries, have effect.

THE DEATH RATE.

The causes of death are given in the report for each District under the headings of the International Abbreviated List of the Statistical Classification, 1948. The death rates, in keeping with past records, are all much lower than the rate of 11.7 for the whole country. The Comparability Factors, which are given, provide a means whereby the rates can be standardised to allow for the different age and sex constitutions of the populations to be compared. The application of the Factors gives standardised rates of : Bushey 9.2 ; Chorleywood 9.9 ; Rickmansworth 9.0 ; and Watford Rural 9.8 ; per 1,000 of their populations. There was not much difference between the sexes in the numbers of deaths from those causes which are common to both, except in the cases of Malignant Neoplasm of the Lung and Bronchus, where the respective numbers for men and women were 30 and 2 : out of the total of 880 deaths in the four Districts.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever, though low, was slightly higher than in the previous year. The disease, for many years now, has been of a mild type.

There were 105 cases of Whooping Cough compared with 116 in 1955, and, 175 in 1954. Vaccines giving a good degree of protection against the disease are now available, and the immunising treatment can readily be obtained from the family doctor, or, at a child welfare centre, or special Clinic. As the disease is more serious in very young children the first injection should be given before the age of three months.

The year was not an epidemic one for measles. The incidence, and the two-year period in the epidemicity of the disease, are shown in the following table.

The Incidence of Measles 1952-1956 (excluding German Measles)

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
BUSHEY	85	232	5	281	42
CHORLEYWOOD	4	89	2	71	11
RICKMANSWORTH	109	300	5	489	27
WATFORD RURAL	198	1,603	18	926	303
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
AREA	396	2,224	30	1,767	383

Of the 4,800 cases during these years, 2,393 were boys and 2,407 girls—a few adult cases are included in this division.

There has not been a case of Diphtheria in the Districts during the last eight years. To maintain this very satisfactory state, young children should be immunised by the time they reach the age of one year—about the seventh to ninth months is a suitable time for the first of the two injections, which are of a simple nature.

There were five cases of Acute Poliomyelitis compared with nineteen in the previous year; there were no deaths, and only one of the cases showed any degree of muscular weakness or paralysis. Immunisation against the disease was commenced at the beginning of last summer and it has since been continued at an increasing rate. The preliminary report on the use of the vaccine indicates that the incidence of paralytic disease in the vaccinated children was only about one-fifth of the incidence in the unvaccinated. Apart from any prevalence of the disease, physical strain and fatigue should be avoided during the summer and autumn, especially if there is any suggestion of headache or indisposition: and, a high standard of personal hygiene should be maintained—hands should be washed before meals, and after visiting the toilet.

THE FOOD SUPPLY.

The fact that the first results of the work done under the new Food Regulations have been so satisfactory has been due, in no small measure, to the co-operation of the owners of food premises and their staffs, in a combined effort to attain the highest standards in the handling of the food supply of the area. Every possible help will be given by the Departments. Equipment is excellent, both in design and materials, whilst complete cleanliness may be readily obtained with the washing preparations now available. Refrigeration is of the greatest importance in ensuring a safe food supply, and it is encouraging to see that it is being made use of on an expanding scale.

The contamination of unwrapped food in shops should be avoided by arranging for its display behind suitable protection. It should not be possible for shoppers to place bags, parcels, etc., on a serving counter—open tubular shelves for such articles can be readily provided at a lower level on the front of the counter.

A considerable amount of damage, apart from the conveyance of infection, has been done in the past to the nation's food supply by rats, mice, and other rodents. There is now evidence that the work done to destroy these and other pests is having its effect.

By a Direction of the Minister of Health, dated 4th December, 1956, under section 83 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Urban District Council of Rickmansworth was made the Food and Drugs Authority for its District, with effect from the 1st day of April, 1957.

GENERAL.

The work of the Public Health Departments has been very efficiently handled by the Inspectors and their Staffs. New legislation has had to be studied, and a considerable amount of time has been given to Housing. People come to the Departments with many problems and difficulties, and they are always helped, but much of this work does not lend itself to classification in a report.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HARVEY.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

of the Councils of the Urban Districts of Bushey, Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, and, the Rural District of Watford.

Medical Officer of Health

WILLIAM HARVEY, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

BUSHEY

Senior Public Health Inspector—A. C. F. GISBORNE, *Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board. Cert. Inspection of Meats and other Foods. Civil Defence Instructors' Cert. Falfield, 1952.*

Public Health Inspector—D. JONES. *Cert. S.I.J.B.*

Trainee Assistant—A. G. BUTTERFIELD.

CHORLEYWOOD

Senior Public Health Inspector (and Surveyor)—W. E. HANDS. *Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board. Cert. Inspection of Meat and other Foods.*

Public Health Inspector (and Assistant Surveyor)—F. E. JACKSON. *Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert. Inspection of Meat and other Foods.*

RICKMANSWORTH

Senior Public Health Inspector—C. R. ALEXANDER. *Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board. Cert. Inspection of Meat and other Foods. Civil Defence Instructors Cert. Falfield 1951.*

Public Health Inspectors—W. HUMBER. *Cert. S.I.J.B. Cert. Inspection of Meat and other Foods.* R. STOCKLEY. *Cert. S.J.I.B. Cert. Inspection of Meat and other Foods (commenced duties 21. 1. 56).*

WATFORD RURAL

Chief Public Health Inspector—S. N. GRIGG. *Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board. Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods. A.R.P.S. Falfield, 1941*

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector—F. REEVE. *Cert. S.I.J.B.*

Public Health Inspectors—E. R. WHITMEY. *Cert. S.J.B. (resigned 8.4.56).* F. VALENTINE. *Cert. S.I.J.B. Cert. Inspection of Meat and other Foods (appointed 1.6.56).*

BUSHEY

URBAN DISTRICT

General.

Area of District (land and inland water), 3,866 acres.

Highest Point—London Road at Southern boundary, 506.7ft.

Lowest Point—Near River Colne, 179.2ft.

Dwellings and Rateable Value.

31st March, 1957.

<i>No. of Separately Rated Dwellings</i>	<i>Rateable Value</i>	<i>Product of Penny Rate (estimated)</i>
5,659	£297,544	£1,150

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year) :

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1945	1939
18,260	17,940	17,710	16,550	16,520	<small>census</small> 14,833	12,880	12,930

Birth Rate.

Live births per 1,000 of population. Comparability Factor, 0.94.

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1945	1939
14.8	13.7	12.5	13.3	12.8	15.1	14.4	13.0

Classification of Births:

					Live Births		Still Births	
					M	F	M	F
Total	...	...	...	...	140	130	—	2
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	127	125	—	2
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	13	5	—	—

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1947	1945	1939
3.7	20.3	36	27.1	4.7	37	27	43	48

Classification of Infant Deaths:

					Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
					M	F	M	F
Total	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

The cases of Tuberculosis which were notified for the first time during the year are given in the following table according to localization of disease, sex, and, age group.

	Respiratory		Meninges, Cent. Nervous System		Other Forms		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5—14 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	
15—24 „	1	1	—	—	—	—	
25—44 „	4	2	—	—	—	—	
45—64 „	3	—	—	—	—	—	
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total (all ages)	8	4	—	—	—	—	

THE CAUSES OF DEATH

DEATH-RATE

(Deaths per 1,000 of population)

1956

					Males	Females	1956	8.7
All Causes					90	71	1955	8.0
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	—	—	1954	...	...	8.7
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—	1953	...	...	8.9
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	1	1	1952	...	...	9.3
4	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	1951	...	...	9.9
5	Whooping cough	...	...	—	—	1950	...	...	9.9
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	1949	...	...	10.4
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	1948	...	...	8.1
8	Measles	...	...	—	—	1947	...	...	9.8
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—	1946	...	...	9.1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	5	5	1945	...	...	10.6
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	6	1	1944	...	...	10.2
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	2	1943	...	...	11.5
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	1	1942	...	...	9.8
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	6	8	1941	...	...	10.6
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	—	1	1940	...	...	9.7
16	Diabetes	...	...	—	2	1939	...	...	7.9
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	13	13	1938	...	...	9.1
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	14	8	1937	...	...	9.2
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	1	1936	...	...	8.2
20	Other heart disease	...	...	13	13				
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	3	3				
22	Influenza	...	...	—	—			
23	Pneumonia	...	...	8	6				
24	Bronchitis	...	...	5	1	England and Wales			
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	—	1956	...	...	11.7
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	—	1955	...	...	11.7
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—	1954	...	...	11.3
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	3	—	1953	...	...	11.4
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	—	1952	...	...	11.3
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—	1951	...	...	12.5
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	—	—	1950	...	...	11.6
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	4	4	1949	...	...	11.7
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	3	—	1948	...	...	10.8
34	All other accidents	...	...	—	—	1947	...	...	12.0
35	Suicide	...	...	1	1	1946	...	...	11.5
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—	1945	...	...	11.4

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1956

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
					Paralytic		Non-paralytic					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—												
1—	—		1						3	3		
3—		2	1						5	5		
5—	—	2	3	3					15	10		
10—	—	1	1									
15—												
25 and over		1								1		
TOTALS	—	6	6	3	—	—	—	—	23	19	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
							Infective		Post-infectious			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—												
5—				1								
15—	1	1		1								
45—	2	1										
65 and over	4	1										
TOTALS	7	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fevers		Erysipelas		Meningococcal infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F
0—									Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	76
5—									Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	11	9
15—			1	1					Cholera ...	—	—
45—									Malaria ...	—	—
65 and over									Plague ...	—	—
									Relapsing Fever	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	Typhus Fever...	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1956

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Scarlet Fever	.	.	4	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Whooping Cough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	4
paralytic Ac. poliomyelitis ; non-paralytic											
Measles	1	1	.	.	17	16	3	.	2	.	2
Diphtheria											
Ac. pneumonia	1	1	1	1	2	.	.	.	3	.	1
Dysentery	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Smallpox											
infective Ac. encephalitis ; post-infectious											
Typhoid Fever											
Paratyphoid fevers											
Erysipelas	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Meningococcal infn.											
Food poisoning											
Puerperal pyrexia	6	4	11	6	6	12	5	2	7	8	5 4
Ophthalmia neonat.	5	1	4	1	.	2	4	2	1	.	.
†											

†Cholera

Malaria

Plague

Relapsing F.

Typhus F.

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING

STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

<i>a</i> , Total number of houses inspected (Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	116
<i>b</i> , Number of inspections made for the purpose	264

2. ACTION TAKEN.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> , Clearance Areas declared	Nil
<i>b</i> , Unfit houses included in <i>a</i> , above	Nil
<i>c</i> , Individual houses demolished	1
<i>d</i> , Individual houses closed	1
<i>e</i> , Parts of buildings closed	Nil
<i>f</i> , Dwellings rendered fit after :—	
<i>i</i> , Informal action	37
<i>ii</i> , Formal action	3

3. OVERCROWDING.

Number of :— —

<i>a</i> , Cases brought forward from previous year	4
<i>b</i> , Premises found to be overcrowded during the year	1
<i>c</i> , Cases of overcrowding abated	1

4. CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> , Certificates of Disrepair issued	Nil
<i>b</i> , Applications for Certificates refused	1
<i>c</i> , Certificates of Disrepair revoked	2

5. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> , Applications made	3
<i>b</i> , „ refused	1
<i>c</i> , Grants made	2

6. NUMBER OF HOUSES AND FLATS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

<i>a</i> , By the Local Authority	32
<i>b</i> , By other Authorities and Organizations	58
<i>c</i> , By private persons	122

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

Housing defects remedied during the year are recorded below in classified form. Work done in connection with the extermination of rats, mice, etc. is not recorded here, but under that part of the report dealing with the Prevention of Damage by Pests.

1. *Site*.

a, Drainage of ground unsatisfactory : 4. *b*, Outbuildings, inadequate or in bad repair : 0. *c*, Approach to back of house unsatisfactory : 2. *d*, Fencing defective : 1. *e*, Storage of refuse unsatisfactory : 1. *f*, Animals improperly kept : 0.

2. *Prevention of Dampness*.

a, Roof, chimney ; defective : 13. *b*, Gutters, downpipes ; defective : 7. *c*, Walls, doors, windows ; defective : 8. *d*, Damp-proof course defective : 0. *e*, Sub-floor ventilation defective : 2. *f*, Solid floor defective : 1. *g*, Soil against walls above damp-proof course : 0. (See also *a*).

3. *Lighting, Ventilation.*
a, Obstruction to light and air : 0. *b*, Window area or opening below standard : 0. *c*, Ventilation otherwise defective : 1. *d*, Artificial lighting defective : 0. (See also 8, *f*).
4. *Stability and External Repair not included under Sections 2 and 3, above* : 3.
5. *Water Supply.*
a, Water supply not satisfactory : 1. *b*, Main supply disconnected : 0.
6. *Food: Storage, Preparation and Cooking.*
a, Storage of food unsatisfactory : 1. *b*, Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory : 1. *c*, Sink unsatisfactory : 1.
7. *Washing arrangements : Disposal of Waste Water.*
a, Bath defective : 0. *b*, No bath : 0. *c*, Arrangements for water heating unsatisfactory : 0. *d*, Disposal of waste water unsatisfactory : 2.
8. *Closet accommodation : Soil Drainage.*
a, Pail closet defective : 1. *b*, Water closet, defective : 12. *c*, Drainage defective : 63. *d*, Disposal of sewage unsatisfactory 0. *e*, Approach to outside closet not protected : 0. *f*, Lighting, ventilation ; inadequate : 0.
9. *Space-Heating.*
a, Firegrate, flue ; defective 3.
10. *Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness : internal.*
a, Internal structures defective : 13. *b*, Decoration in bad state : 1. *c*, Lack of cleanliness : 0. *d*, Infestation with bugs, etc. : 0.

CLEARANCE AREAS.

During the year the remaining families living in the Bushey Urban District (Sparrows Herne) Clearance Area, No. 1, were rehoused by the Council, and demolition was commenced towards the end of the year.

Preliminary inspections were also commenced of further areas to be represented, but it has not been possible to proceed far with this work, owing to the insufficient number of premises available for rehousing.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

No. 43, Windmill Street, a derelict cottage, was demolished by the owners, following informal action ; while, a wooden hut in Heathbourne Road was formally closed and the family rehoused by the Council. Demolition Orders were made in respect of Nos. 1 and 2, Highwood Cottages, Bushey Mill Lane ; one of the families being rehoused by the Council.

During the course of routine inspection of houses, five properties were found to be in a bad state of repair. They appeared to be incapable of being rendered fit for habitation at reasonable cost, and they have been added to the list of properties which are to be reinspected after 1960, when it is hoped that the bulk of the 111 houses included in the schedule for demolition will have been dealt with.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

In two cases, owners carried out the necessary repairs as the result of certificates that were issued in 1954 and 1955, and the certificates were revoked. One application was refused during the year. There were no certificates of disrepair in force at the end of the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

One application for an improvement grant, held over from 1955, was approved. Three formal applications were received during the year under review, two of which were approved and one refused. There have been no applications received from owners in connection with rented property.

GENERAL REPAIRS.

Forty premises were rendered fit as the result of action taken by the Council, and it was not necessary to carry out any work in default.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

With the exception of gypsy encampments, there was little change in the number of caravans stationed in the district during the year. There are two licensed sites, one of which was licensed for ten caravans during the year. An application for a licence has also been received from the occupier of land on which there are already five caravans. Thirteen individual licences were renewed. It is estimated that there are seventy-five caravans on unlicensed and unsatisfactory sites.

The whole position regarding caravans was again considered in detail by the Council, and decisions reached as to the best methods of dealing with the unsatisfactory sites. A number of the caravans on these sites have been subject to temporary licensing for a limited period. In other cases it is hoped to move the caravans off these sites as vacancies become available on the Council Site. The ultimate aim of the Council is to permit the stationing of caravans only on properly equipped and licensed sites. Unfortunately it has not been possible to progress very far with this policy. Only four vacancies occurred during the year on the Council Site, and it is quite obvious that not only will it take some considerable time to clear the unsatisfactory sites, but that further legislation will be required to prevent the establishment of such sites, or the re-occupation of those that have been cleared. The demand for caravan sites in the area is considerable, as shown by the long waiting list for the Council Site at Eastbury Road. There were 110 applications on the list at the end of 1956, although the Site had only been in operation for just over twelve months. With regard to gypsy caravans, these have not been quite so troublesome as in previous years, but with the open spaces along North Western Avenue and the undeveloped land in the Mill Way area, there is little doubt that trouble with this type of caravan will occur from time to time. The type of "gypsy" now encamping in these fields often has quite a modern trailer caravan which is towed by a lorry or similar vehicle.

Inspection of Caravans—1. Bushey Urban District Council site 11.
2. Bushey Hall Road site 60. 3. Gypsy encampments 37. 4. Other caravan sites 136.

THE PROTECTION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY

FOOD CONDEMNED.

The following quantities of food were condemned during the year :—

Meat, carcase 100lbs., Meat, canned 6lbs., Milk, canned 6lbs., Vegetables, canned 7lbs., Fruit, canned 5lbs., Total 124lbs.

All this unsound food was disposed of by burying at the Council's Refuse Tip.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

No regular slaughtering takes place within the District. No notice of any casual slaughtering has been received during the past year.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are three dairies in the District and twelve distributors of milk.

Twenty-four Special Designation licences were granted during the year as follows :—

			Dealers	Supplementary *
Sterilised	...	...	4	3
Pasteurised	...	...	3	5
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	3	6

Sixteen samples of designated milk were taken and submitted for examination. All passed the necessary tests.

* To Dealers whose premises are not in the District.

ICE CREAM.

There are twenty-seven premises registered for the sale of ice cream, and fifty-eight inspections were made to these premises. No ice cream is manufactured in the District, and it is pleasing to report that all thirty-two samples taken from the various retailers, all of whom sell pre-packed ice cream, were placed in Grade 1.

Routine sampling has now been carried out for the past seven years, and it is interesting to note the improvement in the results that has taken place :—

Year		Grades			
		1	2	3	4
1950	...	5	1	1	1
1951	...	16	8	4	3
1952	...	18	12	3	3
1953	...	34	4	0	1
1954	...	25	2	0	0
1955	...	27	1	0	0
1956	...	32	0	0	0

FOOD PREMISES

Table showing the types and numbers of food premises in the District, with the inspections made during the year.

Type of Business	Number in District	Number of Inspections made
REGISTERED PREMISES		
Cooked meats and preserved food ...	7	12
Ice Cream retailers	27	58
Dairies	3	7
OTHER FOOD PREMISES		
Bakehouses	3	3
Butchers	9	18
Cafes and Restaurants	7	18
Canteens, factory	13	8
„ school	14	9
Fish and Chip Shops	2	4
Fishmongers	3	3
Greengrocers	13	35
Grocers, retail	26	39
„ wholesale	2	4
Hospitals and Nursing Homes ...	6	2
Hotels and Guest Houses	3	0
Public Houses	20	6
Licensed Clubs	4	0
Mobile Food Premises	5	11
Miscellaneous Premises (sweets, etc.)	7	16
Sweet Manufacturer	1	1

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

The new code became operative on the 1st January, 1956, and it was immediately decided to issue a suitable extract of the Regulations to the occupiers of all food premises in the District. With this extract was also issued a poster for display in the food preparation rooms, drawing the attention of food handlers to the Regulations. This preliminary introduction was followed by visits to the various food premises in the district. Inspections were made and the occupiers attention drawn to contraventions of a structural character. At the same time, the other requirements of the Regulations were explained.

Occupiers of food premises were quick to appreciate the need for protective equipment, with the result that refrigerators and cooled display cabinets were installed in a number of premises, and glass screens provided. Five premises were equipped with wash basins, a fish shop with a sink, and the occupiers of four premises installed means for providing an adequate supply of hot water. There is, however, a number of further improvements desirable in many of the premises, and from preliminary discussions with the occupiers, it appears that there will be a steady improvement in all aspects of food hygiene during the coming year. Two premises, however, will require special consideration.

During the year it was possible to give a lecture and demonstration concerning the new Regulations to the local Chamber of Trade, which was well received by a number of the food traders. There are two mobile canteens operating in the district, and both vehicles comply with the Regulations.

WATER SUPPLY

The public water supply is chlorinated and adequate for the District. Six samples were taken for bacteriological examination and these were reported as fit for drinking and domestic purposes. As far as is known, there is only one house in the District that is not connected to the public water supply, and these premises draw their water from a private borehole in the garden.

SWIMMING POOL.

Sixteen samples of water from the Bushey Swimming Pool were submitted for bacteriological examination. All samples were reported as satisfactory.

Inspections of Swimming Pools—20.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

DISINFECTION :	Number of houses disinfected	9
DISINFESTATION :	Number of houses treated (Exc. rats and mice)	...	...	26

No premises were found to be infested by bed-bugs, and the Department dealt with a number of complaints from occupiers concerning insect pests and wasps nests.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The work done during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 is recorded in the following section.

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other, incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	20	4,804	24	585	5,433
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result of a, notification, b, otherwise.	a, . b, 7	88 441	. 16	11 3	99 467
3 No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Rats a, Major b, Minor, Infest.	a, . b, 5	. 93	1 .	. 12	1 110
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Mice a, Major b, Minor, Infest.	a, . b, .	. 10	. .	. .	— 10
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...	5	103	.	12	120
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment b, Structural Works	a, . b, .	. .	. .	. .	— —

7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4 ; 0.
8. Legal Proceedings, 0.
9. Number of " block control " schemes carried out, 0.

RODENT CONTROL IN SEWERS.

In January, fifty-two soil and one surface water manholes were test-baited. No “ takes ” were recorded and in view of this result, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have agreed with the Council that the next test-bait should be carried out in January, 1959.

SOIL DRAINAGE

(including—Cesspools, Septic Tanks, Filterbeds, etc.)

There is no change in the number of cesspools and pail closets which are regularly emptied by the Council. One small septic tank and filter bed was constructed to serve a new house, while premission was given for a large cesspool to be built in connection with the construction of a new public house, but these premises will ultimately be connected to the main sewerage system. The following statement sets out the number of drainage inspections made, and the number of obstructions cleared, by the Department during the year :—

1.	NEW AND ALTERED DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.					
	Number of inspections and tests made	...	...	...	...	527
2.	COUNCIL HOUSES.					
	(a) Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	688
	(b) Number of obstructions cleared	...	...	...	...	26
	(c) Number of houses affected under (b) above	...	...	...	...	189
3.	PRIVATE HOUSES.					
	(a) Number of obstructions cleared by Department	...	...	...	...	26
	(b) Number of houses affected under (a) above	...	...	...	...	77

It is desirable to place on record the amount of time that was spent in tracing the pollution of a water course, caused by a person connecting the discharge pipe of a washing machine to a surface water gully. The pollution was intermittent and as the surface water system was very old, many weeks went by before the source of the pollution could be traced.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The collection of refuse in the District is carried out by contract. Two low-loading vehicles with metal covers are in regular use, while in addition, another similar vehicle is used regularly one day a week and at odd times when required.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The refuse is dealt with by “ controlled ” tipping. There have been no complaints regarding insect infestation, but on four occasions the tip was treated following minor rat infestations.

VARIOUS INSPECTIONS, with action where necessary :—

Ponds, Ditches, Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	29
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	12
Refuse Tips, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	34

THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Number of premises licensed under the Act	...	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections made under the Act	...	...	...	...	2
Other Inspections (a) Farms—piggeries	...	8			
,, poultry	...	69			
(b) General	...	...	7		

Situated in the District are two large poultry farms. Both premises are equipped with the battery system for egg production. Complaints have been received periodically concerning smells from these premises, and with such a large number of birds in a confined space, smells are bound to emanate from time to time. The regular removal of large quantities of manure also produces quite a problem.

COMPLAINTS, NOTICES, AND OTHER VISITS

During the year eighty-two complaints were received and the following figures show the number of notices served, and those complied with :—

Notices Informal, outstanding 1st January, 1955	...	...	...	43
Notices ,, served during the year	...	...	...	64
Notices ,, complied with during the year	...	...	...	49
Notices Statutory, outstanding 1st January, 1955	...	...	...	5
Notices ,, served during the year	...	...	...	7
Notices ,, complied with during the year	...	...	...	2
Smoke observations and visits	...	...	...	28
Council Houses	...	...	...	76
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	...	...	...	15
Private Wells	...	...	...	—

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Number of premises registered under the Act	1		
Inspections made	...	1	Action required	nil

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	29	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	8	—	—
TOTAL ...	69	41	1	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	—	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	—	—	1	—

Sections 110, 111—Outworkers, 9; Notices, etc., Nil.

CHORLEYWOOD

URBAN DISTRICT

General.

Area of District (land and inland water), 2,055 acres.

Highest Point—Near water tower at the Swillet, 410.6ft.

Lowest Point—Junction of Meadow Way and Belfry Lane, 160.3ft.

Number of structurally separate dwellings occupied at 31st March, 1957; 1,985.

Rateable value at 31st March, 1957; £110,408.

Product of a penny-rate, £446.

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year)

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1945	1939
5,820	5,430	4,820	4,648	4,586	<small>census</small> 4,431	3,967	3,775

Birth-Rate.

(Live births per 1,000 of population) :

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1945	1939
15.8	15.1	13.3	11.8	10.9	12.5	13.1	9.0
(Comparability Factor, 0.99)							

Classification of Births :

				Live Births		Still Births	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	38	54	—	1
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	38	54	—	1
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1945	1939
32.6	24.4	62.5	36.4	40	0	19	29

Classification of Deaths :

				Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	1	1	2	1
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	1	2	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis Notifications

The cases of Tuberculosis which were notified for the first time during the year are given in the following table according to localization of disease, sex, and age group.

	Respiratory		Meninges, Cent. Nervous System		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 „	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44 „	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64 „	1	1	—	—	—	—
65 and over	2	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	3	2	—	—	—	—

THE CAUSES OF DEATH

DEATH-RATE

(Deaths per 1,000 of population)

1956

					Males	Females									
							1956	...	...	9.9				
All Causes					24	34	1955	9.2
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory				...	...	—	—	1954	...	...	7.7		
2	Tuberculosis, other				...	...	—	—	1953	...	...	10.1		
3	Syphilitic disease				...	...	—	—	1952	...	...	11.5		
4	Diphtheria				...	...	—	—	1951	...	...	8.5		
5	Whooping cough				...	...	—	—	1950	...	...	10.0		
6	Meningococcal infections				...	...	—	—	1949	...	...	11.3		
7	Acute poliomyelitis				...	...	—	—	1948	...	...	9.7		
8	Measles				...	...	—	—	1947	...	...	14.0		
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases				...	...	1	—	1946	...	...	12.6		
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach				...	...	—	2	1945	...	...	9.3		
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				...	...	—	—	1944	...	...	11.2		
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast				...	...	—	1	1943	...	...	13.0		
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus				...	...	—	—	1942	...	...	10.7		
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				...	...	2	6	1941	...	...	10.3		
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia				...	...	—	—	1940	...	...	9.7		
16	Diabetes				...	...	—	—	1939	...	...	9.6		
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system				...	...	3	8	1938	...	...	9.9		
18	Coronary disease, angina				...	...	3	2	1937	...	...	10.5		
19	Hypertension with heart disease				...	...	—	1	1936	...	...	9.7		
20	Other heart disease				...	...	5	6	1935	...	...	7.7		
21	Other circulatory disease				...	...	—	1						
22	Influenza				...	...	—	—					
23	Pneumonia				...	...	2	1						
24	Bronchitis				...	...	5	—						
25	Other diseases of respiratory system				...	...	—	—					
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum				...	...	—	1						
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea				...	...	—	—					
28	Nephritis and nephrosis				...	...	—	—					
29	Hyperplasia of prostate				...	...	—	—					
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion				...	...	—	1						
31	Congenital malformations				...	...	—	—					
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				...	...	1	2						
33	Motor vehicle accidents				...	...	—	1						
34	All other accidents				...	...	2	1						
35	Suicide				...	...	—	—					
36	Homicide and operations of war				...	...	—	—					
														</	

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1956

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
					Paralytic		Non-paralytic					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...			1	1								
1— ...				2					1			
3— ...			1	1					3	2		
5— ...			4	2					3	1		
10— ...												
15— ...										1		
25 and over												
TOTAL ...	—	—	6	6	—	—	—	—	7	4	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
							Infective		Post-infectious			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...												
5— ...												
15— ...												
45— ...												
65 and over												
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fevers		Erysipelas		Meningococcal Infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F
0— ...									Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—
5— ...								1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—
15— ...									Cholera ...	—	—
45— ...									Malaria ...	—	—
65 and over									Plague ...	—	—
									Relapsing Fever	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	Typhus Fever...	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1956

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scarlet Fever												
Whooping Cough	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	6	.	.	.	.
paralytic Ac. poliomyelitis ; non-paralytic												
Measles	8	2	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Diphtheria												
Ac. pneumonia												
Dysentery												
Smallpox												
infective Ac. encephalitis ; post-infectious												
Typhoid Fever												
Paratyphoid fevers												
Erysipelas												
Meningococcal infn.												
Food poisoning	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Puerperal pyrexia												
Ophthalmia neonat.												
†												
† Cholera												
Malaria												
Plague												
Relapsing F.												
Typhus F.												

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING

STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

<i>a</i> , Total number of houses inspected (Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	49
<i>b</i> , Number of inspections made for the purpose	103

2. ACTION TAKEN.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> , Clearance Areas declared	Nil
<i>b</i> , Unfit houses included in <i>a</i> , above	Nil
<i>c</i> , Individual houses demolished	Nil
<i>d</i> , Individual houses closed	Nil
<i>e</i> , Parts of buildings closed	1
<i>f</i> , Dwellings rendered fit after :—	
<i>i</i> , Informal action	41
<i>ii</i> , Formal action	Nil

3. OVERCROWDING.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> , Cases brought forward from previous year	Nil
<i>b</i> , Premises found to be overcrowded during the year	Nil
<i>c</i> , Cases of overcrowding abated	Nil

4. CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> , Certificates of Disrepair issued	Nil
<i>b</i> , Certificates of Disrepair revoked	Nil

5. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> , Applications made	Nil
<i>b</i> , Grants made	Nil

6. NUMBER OF HOUSES AND FLATS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

<i>a</i> , By the Local Authority	Nil
<i>b</i> , By other Authorities and Organizations	Nil
<i>c</i> , By private persons	61

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

Housing defects remedied during the year are recorded below in classified form. Work done in connection with the extermination of rats, mice, etc. is not recorded here, but under that part of the report dealing with the Prevention of Damage by Pests.

1. *Site*.

a, Drainage of ground unsatisfactory : 2. *b*, Outbuildings, inadequate or in bad repair : 8. *c*, Approach to back of house unsatisfactory : 3. *d*, Fencing defective : 0. *e*, Storage of refuse unsatisfactory : 24. *f*, Animals improperly kept : 2.

2. *Prevention of Dampness*.

a, Roof, chimney ; defective : 9. *b*, Gutters, downpipes ; defective : 10. *c*, Walls, doors, windows ; defective : 17. *d*, Damp-proof course ; defective : 0. *e*, Sub-floor ventilation ; defective : 0. *f*, Solid floor ; defective : 3. *g*, Soil against walls above damp-proof course (see also 1.a) : 3.

3. *Lighting, Ventilation.*

a, Obstruction to light and air : 0. *b*, Window area or opening below standard : 0. *c*, Ventilation otherwise defective : 0. *d*, Artificial lighting defective : 0 (see also 8.f).

4. *Stability and External Repair not included under Sections 2 and 3 above : 0.*

5. *Water Supply.*

a, Water supply not satisfactory : 0. *b*, Main supply disconnected : 0.

6. *Food : Storage, Preparation and Cooking.*

a, Storage of food unsatisfactory : 0. *b*, Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory : 0. *c*, Sink unsatisfactory : 5.

7. *Washing arrangements : Disposal of Waste Water.*

a, Bath defective : 0. *b*, No bath : 0. *c*, Arrangements for water heating unsatisfactory : 14. *d*, Disposal of waste water unsatisfactory : 4.

8. *Closet accommodation : Soil Drainage.*

a, Pail closet defective : 0. *b*, Water closet defective : 23. *c*, Drainage defective : 31. *d*, Disposal of sewage unsatisfactory : 0. *e*, Approach to outside closet not protected : 0. *f*, Lighting, ventilation ; inadequate : 0.

9. *Space heating.*

a, Firegrate, flue ; defective : 13

10. *Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness : internal.*

a, Internal structure defective : 15. *b*, Decoration in bad state : 19. *c*, Lack of cleanliness : 5. *d*, Infestation with bugs, etc. : 0.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated. No complaints have been received regarding the quality. Samples were taken during the year and found to be satisfactory.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Under the general heading of public health work this is probably one of the most important duties of the Council, and for this purpose routine visits are made to food establishments throughout the District. The public are now taking a growing interest in food hygiene and showing keener discrimination. This is bound to have a good effect on the general standard.

SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT INSPECTION

The licence for the slaughterhouse in the District expired on 30th June, 1956 and no application for renewal has been made. Three pigs were slaughtered before the expiration of the licence and on inspection were found to be fit for human consumption.

MILK SUPPLY, 1956.

The following Special Designation Licences were issued during the year :—

		Dealers	Supplementary *
Tuberculin Tested	...	4	2
Pasteurised	... ..	4	2
Sterilized	... ..	2	2

Nineteen inspections were made during the year but it was not found necessary to serve any notices. No complaints of dirty milk bottles were received. In the course of the year nine samples of designated milks were submitted to the laboratory for examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

* To Dealers whose premises are outside the District.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

ICE CREAM.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream. It was not found necessary to serve any notices.

In the course of the year, three samples were submitted to the laboratory for examination and found to be satisfactory.

MOBILE FOOD VANS.

Three mobile food vans continue to trade in the District, and all have the name and address of the owner conspicuously displayed on the vehicle.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

A summary of food condemned at various shop premises and canteens during the year is set out below :—

Meat, canned 7lbs ; Fish, 7 tins ; Fruit, 14 tins ; Milk, 4 tins ; Vegetables, 11 tins ; Miscellaneous, 5 tins ; Preserves, 1lb. ; Cereals, 1 packet.

FOOD PREMISES

The following table sets out the number and type of food premises in the district, together with the number of inspections made :—

Type of Businesses	Number in District	Number of Inspections made
REGISTERED PREMISES		
Ice Cream retailers	7	9
Dairies	4	19
OTHER FOOD PREMISES		
Bakehouses	1	2
Butchers	4	7
Canteens, factory	1	2
,, school	2	6
Fishmongers	1	4
Greengrocers	3	7
Grocers, Retail	8	19
Hotels and Guest Houses	1	2
Public Houses	8	15
Licensed Clubs	4	4
Mobile Food Premises	3	7
Miscellaneous Premises (sweets, etc.)	6	9

DISINFECTION (1), DISINFESTATION (2)

Number of cases (1) 6 ; (2) 0. Total 6.

Eighty-two complaints were received regarding wasps, and 97 nests were destroyed.

Rodent Control.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other, incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	3	1,888	10	109	2,010
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result	a,	19			19
a, of notification, b, otherwise.	b, 3	21	2	31	57
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Rats	a,				—
a, Major b, Minor, infest.	b,	18		1	19
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Mice	a,				—
a, Major b, Minor, infest.	b,	4			4
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...		22		1	23
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment	a,				—
b, Structural Works	b,				—

Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4; 0.

8. Legal Proceedings, 0.

9. Number of "block control" schemes carried out, 0.

SEWER CONTROL.

An exemption from testing has been granted until January, 1958, by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

RICK INSPECTION.

In addition to the above, and at the request of the Research Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, this Department participated in a nation-wide survey of ricks for rat and mice infestation, and an inspection was made of two ricks in the District during threshing. The result, together with those of Local Authorities throughout England and Wales, are being analysed by the Ministry, to discover more about the nature, degree and extent of infestation of ricks.

Public Cleansing.

Direct Labour. Vehicles Employed—Two motor vehicles with sliding metal covers. Disposal by Controlled Tipping. Every effort has been made to maintain a 7-day collection service.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	15	18	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	24	27	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3			
Overcrowding (S.2) ...					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL ...	5	4	—	—	—

Outworkers S.110 (i) (c) :—Number, 1. Notices, etc., Nil

RICKMANSWORTH

URBAN DISTRICT

General.

Area (land and inland water), 7,639 acres.

Number of separately rated dwellings at 31st March, 1956; 8,026.

Rateable value at 31st March, 1956; £275,686.

Product of a penny-rate at 31st March, 1956; £1,075.

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year) :

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1945	1939
26,640	26,180	25,820	25,360	25,180	^{census} 24,508	21,870	19,930

Birth-Rate.

(Live births per 1,000 of population) :

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1945	1939
13.3	13.6	12.5	13.2	12.3	13.6	15.3	18.8

(Comparability Factor for Births, 1.03)

Classification of Births:

					Live Births.		Still Births.	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	...	191	164	2	9
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	187	157	2	9
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	4	7	—	—

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1945	1939
19.7	11.2	21.7	11.5	6.5	14	27	32

Classification of Infant Deaths :

				Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	4	1	6	1
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	1	5	1
Illegitimate	...	...	..	—	—	1	—

Tuberculosis

The cases of Tuberculosis which were notified for the first time during the year are given in the following table according to localization of disease, sex, and age group.

	Respiratory		Meninges, Cent. Nervous System		Other Forms		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Under 5 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	
5—14 years	1	2	—	—	1	—	
15—24 „	1	2	—	—	1	—	
25—44 „	1	3	—	—	—	—	
45—64 „	3	2	—	—	—	1	
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total (all ages)	7	11	—	—	2	1	

THE CAUSES OF DEATH

1956

DEATH-RATE

(Deaths per 1,000 of population)

					Males	Females				
All Causes					120	88	1956	...	...	7.5
							1955	...	...	9.2
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...		—	1	1954	...	...	9.0
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...		—	—	1953	...	...	8.2
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...		—	—	1952	...	...	8.1
4	Diphtheria	...	...		—	—	1951	...	...	9.1
5	Whooping cough	...	...		—	—	1950	...	...	8.9
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...		—	—	1949	...	...	9.3
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...		—	—	1948	...	...	8.5
8	Measles	...	...		—	—	1947	...	...	9.9
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...		—	—	1946	...	...	8.1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...			4	2	1945	...	...	10.1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				8	—	1944	...	...	9.8
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...			—	5	1943	...	...	10.1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...			—	1	1942	...	...	8.7
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...		17	7	1941	...	...	8.5
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...		—	1	1940	...	...	8.3
16	Diabetes	...	...		1	—	1939	...	...	8.5
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system				13	15	1938	...	...	7.9
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...		18	7	1937	...	...	6.7
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...			2	3	1936	...	...	8.6
20	Other heart disease	...	...		22	20				
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...		3	3				
22	Influenza	...	...		—	3				
23	Pneumonia	...	...		6	2				
24	Bronchitis	...	...		2	1				
25	Other diseases of respiratory system				2	—	England and Wales			
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...			1	—	1956	...	...	11.7
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...			—	1	1955	...	...	11.7
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...		—	2	1954	...	...	11.3
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...		1	—	1953	...	...	11.4
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...			—	—	1952	...	...	11.3
31	Congenital malformations	...	...		1	—	1951	...	...	12.5
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				9	10	1950	...	...	11.6
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...		2	—	1949	...	...	11.7
34	All other accidents	...	...		7	2	1948	...	...	10.8
35	Suicide	...	...		1	2	1947	...	...	12.0
36	Homicide and operations of war	...			—	—	1946	...	...	11.5

Comparability Factor for Deaths, 1.20

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1956

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-paralytic		M	F	M	F
0— ...			2						—	3		
1— ...			4	3					4			
3— ...		1	4	1			1		4	4		
5— ...	3	4	9	9	2				5	4		
10— ...		1							1			
15— ...												
25 and over									1	1		
TOTAL ...	3	6	19	13	2	—	1	—	15	12	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Infective		Post-infectious		M	F
0— ...												
5— ...												
15— ...		2	1	1								
45— ...												
65 and over		1										
TOTAL ...	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fevers		Erysipelas		Meningococcal infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F
0— ...									Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	—
5— ...							1	2	Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—
15— ...								1	Cholera ...	—	—
45— ...							1		Malaria ...	—	—
65 and over									Plague ...	—	—
									Relapsing Fever	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	Typhus Fever...	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
1956

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

12

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scarlet Fever	.	1	2	.	.	1	.	1	.	1	3	.
Whooping Cough	.	.	2	1	.	.	1	2	.	9	10	7
paralytic	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ac. poliomyelitis ;												
non-paralytic	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	"
Measles	15	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	.	.	.	.
Diphtheria												
Ac. pneumonia	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Dysentery	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Smallpox												
infective												
Ac. encephalitis ;												
post-infectious												
Typhoid Fever												
Paratyphoid fevers												
Erysipelas												
Meningococcal infn.												
Food poisoning	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Puerperal pyrexia												
Ophthalmia neonat.												
†												

† Cholera
Malaria
Plague
Relapsing F.
Typhus F.

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING

STATISTICS

1.	INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.							
	<i>a</i> ,	Total number of houses inspected (Public Health or Housing Acts)						323
	<i>b</i> ,	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...			1506
2.	ACTION TAKEN.							
	Number of :—							
	<i>a</i> ,	Clearance Areas declared	...	...	...	...	...	—
	<i>b</i> ,	Unfit houses included in <i>a</i> , above	...	...	...	...	...	—
	<i>c</i> ,	Individual houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	21
	<i>d</i> ,	Individual houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	15
	<i>e</i> ,	Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	...	—
	<i>f</i> ,	Dwellings rendered fit after :—						
		i, Informal action	...	...	...	...	...	173
		ii, Formal action	...		{ Public Health Act, 1936			7
					{ Housing Acts, 1936			14
3.	OVERCROWDING.							
	Number of :—							
	<i>a</i> ,	Cases brought forward from previous year	...	...	...			3
	<i>b</i> ,	Premises found to be overcrowded during the year	...	...	...			2
	<i>c</i> ,	Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	2
4.	CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.							
	Number of :—							
	<i>a</i> ,	Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	...	...	—
	<i>b</i> ,	„ „						

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

Housing defects remedied during the year are recorded below in classified form. Work done in connection with the extermination of rats, mice, etc. is not recorded here, but under that part of the report dealing with the Prevention of Damage by Pests.

1. *Site.*
a, Drainage of ground unsatisfactory : 0. *b*, Outbuildings, inadequate or in bad repair : 14. *c*, Approach to back of house unsatisfactory : 3.
d, Fencing defective : 0. *e*, Storage of refuse unsatisfactory : 32.
f, Animals improperly kept : 0.
2. *Prevention of Dampness.*
a, Roof, chimney ; defective : 58. *b*, Gutters, downpipes ; defective : 30.
c, Walls, doors, windows ; defective : 120. *d*, Damp-proof course defective : 40. *e*, Sub-floor ventilation defective : 3. *f*, Solid floor defective : 4.
g, Soil against walls above damp-proof course : 0. (See also 1.*a*).

3. *Lighting, Ventilation.*
a, Obstruction to light and air : 0. *b*, Window area or opening below standard : 0. *c*, Ventilation otherwise defective : 16. *d*, Artificial lighting defective : 0. (See also 8, *f*).
4. *Stability and External Repair not included under Sections 2 and 3 above* : 1.
5. *Water Supply.*
a, Water supply not satisfactory : 8. *b*, Main supply disconnected : 1.
6. *Food Storage, Preparation and Cooking.*
a, Storage of food unsatisfactory : 33. *b*, Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory : 0. *c*, Sink unsatisfactory : 2.
7. *Washing arrangements : Disposal of Waste Water.*
a, Bath defective : 0. *b*, No bath : 0. *c*, Arrangements for water heating unsatisfactory : 3. *d*, Disposal of waste water unsatisfactory : 4.
8. *Closet accommodation : Soil Drainage.*
a, Pail closet defective : 1. *b*, Water closet defective : 36. *c*, Drainage defective : 115. *d*, Disposal of sewage unsatisfactory : 0. *e*, Approach to outside closet not protected : 0. *f*, Lighting, ventilation ; inadequate : 0.
9. *Space Heating.*
a, Firegrate, flue ; defective : 12.
10. *Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness : internal.*
a, Internal structures defective : 214. *b*, Decoration in bad state : 65. Lack of cleanliness : 0. *d*, Infestation with bugs, etc. : 1.

The systematic inspection of houses which could be repaired at reasonable cost has continued throughout the year, and it has resulted in the marked increase in the number of housing defects remedied. It is well to bear in mind, however, that the repair of defects in the type of house being dealt with, whilst arresting structural and other deterioration, does not result in what is generally regarded as a good unit of housing by modern standards. This is because the present law does not require that a fit house shall have a fixed bath, a hot water system, an inside water closet or even a more modern cooking appliance than the old kitchen range. Assistance towards the cost of such improvements is, of course, available to owners by way of Improvement Grants and, whilst the number of Grants made has increased, it was still only twenty-five for the year and the majority of these were made to owner occupiers. Improvement Grants are having little or no effect upon the older, tenanted, rent controlled, cottage type property.

Steady progress has been maintained in slum clearance by Closing and Demolition procedure. The rate at which this proceeds in the future is largely dependent upon the number of Council houses becoming available for the rehousing of families from these properties.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, CARAVANS, GIPSIES.

The majority of the moveable dwellings in the District are on single sites and are licensed. There are two sites licensed for fifteen and three dwellings respectively. The total number of dwellings at the end of the year was forty-nine.

A special problem which arose during the year was that of gypsies, who stop in the district from time to time. In only one case was there a prolonged stay by one of these on a particular site ; as a rule these people moved off a site within a day of being asked to do so. In all, during the year, there were eight requests to move off, and all these were complied with.

THE PROTECTION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY

SUMMARY OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Meat, 127lbs. ; Meat, canned 133lbs. ; Fish, canned 16lbs. ; Soup, canned 1lb. ; Milk, canned 13lbs. ; Cheese, 35lbs. ; Vegetables, canned 130lbs. ; Fruit, canned 76lbs. ; Preserves, 11lbs. ; Chinese Whole Egg, canned 22lbs.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

All food was taken to the Council's refuse disposal tip.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the District at 251 Uxbridge Road, Mill End. Very little slaughtering has been carried out during the year.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

		Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	...	—	—	—	—	12	—
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	12	—

Two pig livers were condemned. Total weight 5½lbs.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of persons registered as Distributors	...	18
Number of premises registered as Dairies	...	1
Number of Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	...	1
Number of Dealer's Licences to use the special designations :—		
T.T. Pastuerised	... ..	1
Pasteurised	... ..	5
Tuberculin Tested	... ..	4
Sterilised	... ..	5

Number of Dealer's Supplementary Licences* to use the special designations :—

Pasteurised	... ..	9
Tuberculin Tested	... ..	9
Sterilised	... ..	4

Eighteen samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all reached the required standard.

* for Dealers whose premises are outside the District.

Inspections of Dairies, 3 . Notices, 0.

ICE CREAM.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the District, but forty-nine premises were registered for its sale. The suppliers are large manufacturers, and of the twenty-three samples taken twenty-two conformed to Provisional Grade I Standard, the other was a Grade IV sample which, when repeated, gave a Grade I result.

FOOD PREMISES.

The following table sets out the numbers and types of food premises in the District and the numbers of inspections made, the premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 ; and the number of notices served and complied with.

<i>Type of Food Premises</i>	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices</i>	
				<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>
Bakehouses	8	—	29	4	3
Bread and Pastry Purveyors	17	—	43	4	5
Butchers	18	18	96	11	12
Confectioners	28	—	59	1	1
Fishmongers	7	—	29	4	5
Fish Fryers	4	3	19	4	3
Greengrocers	13	—	91	16	14
Grocers	45	2	173	28	23
Ice Cream Purveyors ...	49	41	70	—	—
Licensed Premises ...	43	—	127	4	3
Milk Distributors ...	18	—	36	—	—
Restaurants and Cafes	40	—	123	10	7
Canteens, Factory ...	16	—	41	6	6
„ School ...	16	—	44	8	5
	<u>322</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>980</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>87</u>

The sharp increase in the number of offences detected and notices served can be attributed, principally, to the coming into operation on the 1st January, 1956, of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. These Regulations aim at improved standards in construction of premises, food handling and food protection and in washing facilities for food, food equipment and personnel.

The numbers of the various types of contravention of the Regulations dealt with during the year are recorded below.

<i>Type of Contravention</i>	<i>Number remedied</i>
Food unprotected against contamination ...	18
Smoking, by food handlers	7
Fly infestation	3
Accumulation of refuse in food room	1
Dirty clothing of food handlers	1
No accommodation for outdoor clothing, etc.	7
No wash hand basin	38
Insufficient water supply—hot	39
„ „ „ cold	32
No nailbrush provided	28
Insufficient First Aid materials	16
Structural disrepair in food rooms	8
Premises in need of redecoration	26
Defective equipment	9
Dirty equipment	14
Inadequate ventilation	3
Sanitary convenience insufficiently lighted ...	19
No notice displayed requesting users of sanitary convenience to wash their hands	5
Insufficient temperature control of certain foods	1
No name and address displayed (stalls, etc.) ...	10

WATER SUPPLY.

The Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company supplies the greater part of the area ; the Colne Valley Water Company supplies a relatively small number of houses in the Eastbury area. A satisfactory sample from each supply was taken during the year.

One factory and two camping sites have shallow bores ; forty-three samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

SWIMMING POOL.

The Ebury Road Open Air Bath is owned by the Council. The water supply is by bore and electric pump. Chlorination apparatus is in use and frequent checks are made by the attendant and by this department.

Eleven inspections of the bath were made and six samples were taken for bacteriological analysis during the season. All were reported to be satisfactory.

LICENSED PREMISES.

Particular attention was directed during the year to the sanitary accommodation provided for the use of customers at Public Houses in the District. Considerable improvements have been carried out, or are planned, as the result of informal notices ; the co-operation of the various brewers in this matter has generally been very good. In the case of one public house in West Hyde it was decided by the owners to close the premises rather than incur the considerable expense of providing proper sanitary accommodation for customers, and other works to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The following table summarises the work in connection with the sanitary accommodation at licensed premises :

<i>No. of Licensed Premises</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Notices Complied</i>
43	127	11	7

SHOPS ACT, 1950

There are 285 shops and eighteen mobile shops or stalls in the Urban District and during the year 557 inspections were made. Seventy-two informal notices were served and fifty-one complied with. The majority of these notices concerned the display of the various forms and notices required by the Act. In addition, twelve cases of unsuitable or insufficient washing facilities and three of insufficient seating accommodation for female assistants were successfully dealt with.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

DISINFECTION :	Number of houses disinfected	6
DISINFESTATION :	Number of houses treated (Exc. for rats and mice)	...	...	4

Fifty-six complaints were received regarding wasps, and action was taken for the destruction of nests. Complaints of squirrels, moles and bats were also dealt with.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The work done during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, is recorded in the following section.

	1 Local Authority Depots, etc.	2 Dwelling Houses	3 All other, incl. Business & Industry	4 Total cols. 1, 2, 3	5 Agri- cultural
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.'s district	28	8,180	736	8,944	20
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result of a, Notific- ation, b, Survey under Act, c, otherwise	a, . b, 28 c, 21	179 105 1,506	26 38 3,128	205 171 4,655	. 14 16
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats (a) Major (b) Minor, infest	a, . b, 9	. 249	. 14	. 272	. .
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by mice (a) Major (b) Minor, infest	a, . b, 2	. 20	. 12	— 34	. .
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...	11	269	26	306	.
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment b, Structural Works	a, . b, .	. .	. .	— —	. .

7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4 ; 0.
8. Legal proceedings, 0.
9. Number of “ block control ” schemes carried out, 20.

RODENT CONTROL IN SEWERS.

As the test-baiting of the sewers in the District during recent years has shown no evidence of rats, this work was not considered by the Ministry to be necessary during 1955.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Direct labour scheme. Disposal by controlled tipping. Salvage of paper scheme in operation.

THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Number of licences to keep Pet Shops	3
Offences against Act	0

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	22	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	82	206	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	91	228	12	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	7	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	9	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	11	16	—	—	—

Sections 110, 111—Outworkers 59: Notices, etc., Nil.

WATFORD

RURAL DISTRICT

Area (land and inland water). 18,179 acres.

Civil Parishes—Abbots Langley, 5,558.9; Aldenham, 5,842; Sarratt, 4,587.4; Watford Rural, 2,190.7; acres.

Dwellings and Rateable Value.

31st March, 1957.

<i>No. of Separate Dwellings</i>	<i>Rateable Value</i>	<i>Product of Penny Rate (Estimated)</i>
14,060	£721,848	£2,887

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year) :

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1945	1939
52,930	51,100	48,560	44,800	43,340	^{ceusus} 38,316	20,370	20,280

Birth-Rate.

(Live births per 1,000 of population) :

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1945	1939
16.5	14.9	15.6	16.2	16.5	17.0	17.2	13.9

(Comparability Factor, 0.87)

Classification of Births :

				Live Births		Still Births	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	450	424	9	3
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	432	412	9	3
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	18	12	—	—

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1945	1939
28.6	11.8	22.4	24.8	9.8	29	26	56

Classification of Deaths:

				Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	8	7	11	14
Legitimate	...	...	...	8	7	11	14
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

The cases of Tuberculosis which were noted for the first time during the year are given in the following table according to localization of disease, sex, and age group.

	Respiratory		Meninges, Cent. Nervous System		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years		1	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	1	4	—	—	1	1
15—24 „	1	6	1	—	—	2
25—44 „	10	5	—	—	—	1
45—64 „	6	2	—	—	—	—
65 and over		—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	18	18	1	—	1	4

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1956

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
					Paralytic		Non-paralytic					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...			1	1					3	1		
1— ...	1	2	2	5					25	29		
3— ...	5	5	12	7					36	42		
5— ...	19	10	12	16				1	84	74		
10— ...	3	3	1	1					2	2		
15— ...	2		2						1			
25 and over			2		1				2	2		
TOTAL ...	30	20	32	30	1	—	—	1	153	150	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
							Infective		Post-infectious			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...	1		3									
5— ...		2		1								
15— ...	2	3	22	1								
45— ...	3	1										
65 and over	2	1										
TOTAL ...	8	7	25	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fever		Erysipelas		Meningococcal infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F
0— ...							1	3	Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	1
5— ...	1						5	2	Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—
15— ...			1	2			6	2	Cholera ...	—	—
45— ...			2	1			1		Malaria ...	—	—
65 and over			1						Plague ...	—	—
									Relapsing Fever	—	—
TOTAL ...	1	—	4	3	—	—	13	7	Typhus Fever...	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1956

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scarlet Fever	5	5	7	.	5	5	2	3	5	.	5	8
Whooping Cough	.	.	1	.	1	4	5	8	19	6	6	12
paralytic	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		.	.	1
Ac. poliomyelitis ;												
non-paralytic	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Measles	13	21	10	3	29	26	16	32	11	4	59	79
Diphtheria												
Ac. pneumonia	2	1	2	.	2	.	1	2	2	.	.	3
Dysentery	4	.	.	4	12	4	.	1	1	.	.	1
Smallpox												
infective												
Ac. encephalitis ;												
post-infectious												
Typhoid Fever												
Paratyphoid fevers	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Erysipelas	.	1	.	.	.	2	1	1	.	2	.	.
Meningococcal infn.												
Food poisoning	.	.	.	5	4	4	1	1	.	.	5	.
Puerperal pyrexia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Ophthalmia neonat.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
†												
† Cholera	Malaria	Plague	Relapsing F.	Typhus F.								

THE CAUSES OF DEATH						DEATH-RATE			
1956						(Deaths per 1,000 of population)			
						</			

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING

STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

<i>a</i> ,	Total number of houses inspected (Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	401
<i>b</i> ,	Number of inspections made for the purpose	574

2. ACTION TAKEN.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> ,	Clearance Areas declared	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>b</i> ,	Unfit houses included in <i>a</i> , above	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>c</i> ,	Individual houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
<i>d</i> ,	Individual houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>e</i> ,	Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>f</i> ,	Dwellings rendered fit after :—							
	i, Informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
	ii, Formal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

3. OVERCROWDING.

Number of :—

a ,	Cases brought forward from previous year	...	...	...	0
b ,	Premises found to be overcrowded during the year	...	...	...	0
c ,	Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	0

4. CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Number of :—

a ,	Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	...	...	1
b ,	" " revoked	...	...	...	...	...	1

5. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Number of :—

a,	Applications made	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
b,	Grants made	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

6. NUMBER OF HOUSES AND FLATS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

<i>a,</i>	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
<i>b,</i>	By other Authorities and Organizations	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
<i>c,</i>	By private persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	245

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

Housing defects remedied during the year are recorded below in classified form. Work done in connection with the extermination of rats, mice, etc. is not recorded here, but under that part of the report dealing with the Prevention of Damage by Pests.

1. *Site.*

a, Drainage of ground unsatisfactory : 5. *b*, Outbuildings, inadequate or in bad repair : 6. *c*, Approach to back of house unsatisfactory : 0.
d, Fencing defective : 0. *e*, Storage of refuse unsatisfactory : 33.
f, Animals improperly kept : 3.

2. Prevention of Dampness.

a, Roof, chimney ; defective : 15. *b*, Gutters, downpipes ; defective : 13.
c, Walls, doors, windows ; defective : 10. *d*, Damp-proof course defective :
 6. *e*, Sub-floor ventilation defective : 0. *f*, Solid floor defective : 6.
g, Soil against walls above damp-proof course : 2. (See also 1, *a*).

3. *Lighting, Ventilation.*

a, Obstruction to light and air : 0. *b*, Window area or opening below standard : 6. *c*, Ventilation otherwise defective : 0. *d*, Artificial lighting defective : 0. (See also 8, *f*).

4. *Stability and External Repair not included under Sections 2 and 3, above* : 1.
5. *Water Supply.*
a, Water supply not satisfactory : 2. *b*, Main supply disconnected : 0.
6. *Food Storage, Preparation and Cooking.*
a, Storage of food unsatisfactory : 6. *b*, Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory : 0. *c*, Sink unsatisfactory : 6.
7. *Washing arrangements : Disposal of Waste Water.*
a, Bath defective : 0. *b*, No bath : 0. *c*, Arrangements for water heating unsatisfactory : 0. *d*, Disposal of waste water unsatisfactory : 6.
8. *Closet accommodation : Soil Drainage.*
a, Pail closet defective : 6. *b*, Water closet defective : 12. *c*, Drainage defective : 32. *d*, Disposal of sewage unsatisfactory : 0. *e*, Approach to outside closet not protected : 0. *f*, Lighting, ventilation ; inadequate : 6.
9. *Space-Heating.*
a, Firegrate, flue : defective : 3.
10. *Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness : internal.*
a, Internal structures defective : 16. *b*, Decoration in bad state : 6.
c, Lack of cleanliness : 2. *d*, Infestation with bugs, etc. : 3.

CARAVAN SITES.

There are four licensed caravan sites in the Rural District, i.e., sites at Eastbury Road, Oxhey ; Toms Lane, Kings Langley ; Newlands, Bedmond ; and Tibbs Hill, Abbots Langley. The number of caravan dwellings on the four sites total 268.

Periodic visits and inspections of the sites are made by the public health department staff. The sites are generally well maintained, with all conditions attached to the respective licences adhered to.

THE PROTECTION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY

FOOD CONDEMNED.

The following is a summary of food condemned during the year :—

Meat, carcase 332lbs., Meat, canned 162lbs., Sausages 7lbs., Soup, canned 5lbs., Fish, canned 10lbs., Fruit, canned 158lbs., Milk, cans 6.

Number of Food Premises inspected, 233 ; Contraventions, 7.

FOOD PREMISES.

During the year a total of 185 food Retailing and Manufacturing premises (comprising 18 Butchers, 21 Greengrocers, 22 Confectioners, 56 Grocers, 10 Bakers, 6 Fishmongers, 9 Cafes, 42 Public Houses and 1 Food Factory) were circulated in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. A summary of the provisions of the Regulations, detailing the requirements relating to food premises and to persons engaged in handling of food, was sent to the occupier of each of the premises.

Number of Food Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	233
Number of contraventions	...	...	...	...	...	7

MILK SUPPLY

(a) Designated milks					Retailers	
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	19
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	18
Sterilized	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of inspections	...	12		Notices	...	3

ICE-CREAM.

Number of premises registered :—

(a) for Manufacture...	...	0	(b) for Sale	...	54
Number of inspections	...	56	Notices	...	2

During the year 49 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for laboratory examination. The results were as follows :—

Grade I, 46. Grade II, 3. Grade III, 0. Grade IV, 0.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

Three samples of the public water supplies in the District were submitted for laboratory examination and satisfactory reports were received in each case.

SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle			Sheep		
	exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	Pigs	*Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	4	—	11	—
Number inspected ...	—	—	4	—	11	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

*For human consumption

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

DISINFECTION :	Number of houses disinfected	48
DISINFESTATION :	Number of houses treated (Exc. rats and mice)	...	...	3

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The work done during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, is recorded in the following section.

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other, incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district ...	14	13,991	180	1,025	15,030
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result of a, notification, b, otherwise	a, — b, 14	104 562	— 1	2 115	106 692
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats (a) Major (b) Minor, Infest.,	a, — b, 3	122	1	2	— 128
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Mice a, Major b, Minor, Infest.	a, — b, —	23	—	—	— 23
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...	3	145	1	1	150
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment b, Structural Work	a, — b, —	— —	— —	— —	— —

7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4 : 0.
8. Legal Proceedings, 0.
9. Number of " block control " schemes carried out, 10.

A rodent operative is employed in the public health department and he is provided with a light van for transport of equipment, poison baits, etc. The Council's present policy is to provide a free service for domestic dwellings.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) REFUSE COLLECTION—The service is carried out by direct labour throughout the District. During the post war years there has been considerable expansion in this service on account of the extensive housing development in the Council's area. Eleven vehicles are now employed, namely :—two 18 cu. yd. rear loaders ; three 12 cu. yd. Double Cab ; two 10 cu. yd. Double Cab ; and four 10 cu. yd. Single Cab ; in full use. In addition, two 10 cu. yd. Single Cab act as relief vehicles.

It has been the aim to maintain a weekly collection service, but difficulties have been experienced from time to time owing to absence of the regular staff on account of sickness ; it is not usually possible to engage men in a temporary capacity to take the place of those absent.

A Trade Refuse Collection Scheme provides for a charge being made for the removal of trade refuse from shop premises. The scale of fees in force provides for no charge in respect of the first dustbin, 30/- per year for the second bin, 20/- for the third, and 15/- for the fourth and subsequent bins.

(b) REFUSE DISPOSAL—With the expansion of the refuse collection service, there has been a considerable increase in the amount of refuse collected, and additional land has had to be taken over at the two refuse disposal sites at Abbots Langley and Aldenham. Controlled tipping is being carried out at both tips, with the assistance of mechanical equipment. The disposal site at Aldenham has been improved by the use of the additional land which has been made available, and the mechanical equipment which was provided in September, 1956.

(c) CESSPOOL EMPTYING—The emptying of cesspools is undertaken by the Council, and the scheme covers the whole of the district. Cesspools are emptied at the request of owners or occupiers without charge, but the Council reserve the right to review this arrangement at any time, and to impose a scale of charges in specific cases, or generally, should they consider it necessary or desirable.

An 800 gallon Cesspool Emptying Vehicle, operated by two men, is in use. In addition, it is necessary to employ the services of a contractor who uses modern type emptying vehicles. The improved efficiency of the service was maintained during the year, and as a result, the number of emptyings has increased.

The Council has under consideration the question of extending the sewerage system in certain areas of the district, an action which would result in the abolition of a number of cesspools. Work commenced at the end of the year on the laying of a sewer to replace cesspools in Bucknalls Lane, Garston.

The disposal of cesspool contents is as far as possible into sewers in the area, otherwise by discharge on to suitable land.

WORKING STATISTICS (January—December).

Total number of Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	509
Total number of emptyings of above Cesspools	...	...	...	...	214
Total number of loads removed	...	...	...	...	4,692
Number of gallons removed at 800 gallons per load	...	...	...	...	3,753,600

(d) PAIL CLOSET EMPTYING—This is undertaken by direct labour in the Parishes of Abbots Langley, Aldenham, and Sarratt. Pail closets are emptied weekly.

(e) PUBLIC CONVENIENCES—In addition to the Public Conveniences at Watling Street, Radlett, and at Station Approach, South Oxhey, plans are now in hand for provision of conveniences at Abbots Langley.

The maintenance and supervision of both Conveniences is carried out by the Public Health Department.

THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Number of licences to keep Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	3
Number of premises inspected	...	...	...	...	6
Contraventions	...	...	...	...	0

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	36	2	—
iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	51	38	2	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	3	—	—	—

Outworkers S.110 (i) (c)—Number, 144 ; Notices, etc., 0.

